

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208618
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011
DRAFTED BY IO/ML:PWKRIEBEL
APPROVED BY IO:EMICHAL
-----114220 170817Z /15
P 170013Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 5681

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 3582 SENT ACTION AUG 15.

QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 3582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ET
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REFS: (A) STATE 204786 (B) ADDIS ABABA 2955

SUMMARY. WE PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) WITH
TEXT OF USG POSITION ON ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE,
BUT DOUBT IT WILL CHANGE ETHIOPIAN POSITION, WHICH
WE EXPECT TO BE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH SOVIET, CUBAN
AND ARAB POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAD TEXT OF USG POSITION PROVIDED PARA 1 REFTEL DE-
LIVERED TO MOFA HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION
AUGUST 14, AND HAND CARRIED INFO COPY TO MOFA DEPUTY HEAD OF
AMERICAS DIVISION, TASSEW MAKONNEN. WE WERE NOT ABLE TO SEE
THE FORMER IN PERSON (HE HAS BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR OVER TWO
WEEKS). TASSEW ASSURED US THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING USG
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VIEWS TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE, BUT COULD OFFER NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT ON WHAT
POSITION THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT (PMGSE) MIGHT TAKE ON THE
ZIONISM-RACISM LINKAGE AT GENEVA.

2. THE PMGSE POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
BE ALIGNED WITH THAT OF THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. LOCAL MEDIA

HAS RECENTLY BEEN FEATURING A SERIES OF ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY (MOST RECENT WAS A LONG STUDY EQUATING ZIONISM, RACISM AND IMPERIALISM BY GRASPAR GALLO, REPRINTED FROM GRANMA. THE PMGSE CAN USUALLY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE SOVIET/CUBAN LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLOSELY, EXCEPT IN THOSE CASES WHERE IT HAS OVERRIDING INTERESTS OF ITS OWN OR IT SEES A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVED WHICH TOUCHES ON ITS OWN VITAL INTERESTS (REFTEL B).

3. FURTHER, THE PMGSE HAS CONSCIOUSLY TAKEN A LINE OF FULL SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE IN ORDER TO RENDER POLITICALLY MORE DIFFICULT ARAB SUPPORT FOR SOMALI IRREDENTISM IN THE OGADEN AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ERITREAN SECESSIONISTS.

4. IN THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE, NO VITAL ETHIOPIAN INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE. WE, THEREFORE, EXPECT THE PMGSE TO ACT ON THIS ISSUE AS ONE WITH WHICH IT CAN USE TO REPAY SOVIET AND CUBAN ASSISTANCE WITH A POLITICAL GESTURE, WHICH ALSO MAY SERVE A USEFUL TACTICAL PURPOSE IN FURTHERING ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ARAB SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA'S IMMEDIATE ENEMIES.

5. WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT THE USG VIEWPOINT TO BE REPORTED LOCALLY, AND WE EXPECT IT TO BE WIDELY MISREPRESENTED IN REPRINTED SOVIET COMMENTARY, AT LEAST THE SENIOR CONFIDENTIAL

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WORKING LEVEL AT THE MOFA WILL KNOW THAT OUR POSITION IS BASED ON PRINCIPLE AND THAT THE USG OPPOSES RACISM IN ALL ITS FORMS. CHAPIN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, POLICIES, MEETINGS, ZIONISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE208618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWKRIEBEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-0040
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsdi.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c29efc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 204786, 78 ADDIS ABABA 2955
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1708319
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, OCON, ET
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c29efc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014